



Professional Associations

National professional associations are valuable sources for a variety of career information. Through them you can learn about certification requirements, job leads, internships, educational opportunities, and more. Attending association conferences, conventions, and/or meetings will give you the opportunity to network and possibly have informational interviews with association members.

Finding associations

- A good place to start when looking into professional associations is the *Encyclopedia of Associations*, which can be found in the Career Development Center's Career Resource Library and online on the Herman B. Wells Library website www.libraries.iub.edu/.
- Another source of information is the Career Development Center's *Career Interests Web Link Library* www.iucareers.com/services/crl/wll.php. Do a keyword search using the name of the career field you are interested in, for example "clinical psychology." This will lead you to various sites on that subject and will often include professional associations for that career field.

Contacting associations

If you have found a web site of a professional association in a career field you are interested in pursuing, then you may have found all of the information you wanted. If not, you can email, write, or call the membership department or the public information office of the association, and ask them for the information you are seeking. Consider asking questions such as:

- Could you please send me membership information?
- Do you have a student rate for joining your association?
- Do you have a brochure that describes your association?
- Could I have a sample copy of your association's newsletter or journal?
- What are the dates and locations of future national, state, or regional conferences and/or conventions?
- Do you have a brochure describing careers in the field of _____?
- Does your association provide placement services for its members?
- Is your association aware of non-paid or paid internships in your career field?
- Do you have a website?
- Can you send me a price list for your publications?
- Is your association aware of financial aid or scholarships available in the career field?
- Does your association have a list of colleges that would offer further training in this career field?

Some professional associations

- *Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (ATAS)* www.emmys.org
- *American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)* www.aap.org
- *American Accounting Association (AAA)* www.aaahq.org
- *American Advertising Federation (AAF)* www.aaf.org
- *American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (AAHPERD)* www.aahperd.org
- *American Association for Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS)* www.aafcs.org
- *American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT)* www.aamft.org
- *American Bar Association (ABA)* www.abanet.org
- *American Camping Association (ACA)* www.acacamps.org
- *American Marketing Association (AMA)* www.ama.org
- *American Nurses Association (ANA)* www.nursingworld.org
- *American Psychological Association (APA)* www.apa.org
- *American Public Health Association (APHA)* www.apha.org
- *American Society for Nutritional Sciences (ASNS)* www.asns.org
- *American Society of Journalists and Authors (ASJA)* www.asja.org
- *Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)* www.appam.org
- *Foundation for Interior Design Education Research (FIDER)* www.fider.org
- *National Association of Social Workers (NASW)* www.naswdc.org